(b) No funds have been specifically earmarked for the programme, which will be covered as part of the normal programmes.

(c) Government of Orissa have sent a proposal wherein they have indicated that foodgrains should be in the form of rice. The proposal is under consideration.

Circulation of Fake Currency

*359. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased testate:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled, "Singapore to U.P. townships: Money racket busted", appearing in the Indian Express dated the 7th November, 1999; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb fake currency notes distributed mainly in small towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Police' being a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitutor, of India, prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to combat counterfeiting, currency notes are now printed with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Border Security has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country. The Central Bureau of Investigation has creasted a Special Unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes.

Jute Growers in the country

*360. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute growers in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government on the plight of jute growers because of reluctance of JCI to procure jute from farmers, and non-operation of NJMC mills?

THE MINISTER OFTEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Around 4 million agricultural families are involved in jute cultivation.

(b) As the prices of raw jute in upcountry and local markets generally have been ruling well above minimum support price in the current season JCI was not required to carry out any major price support operation. However, in some isolated pockets where prices touched MSP level, JCI carried out price support operation which restored price above MSP level.